



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## Editorial Note.

---

In publishing the second number of the first volume of the *Journal* of the Illinois State Historical Society, the committee decided to delay it, and include in it two numbers of the volume in order that it may contain a brief report of the two first celebrations of the semi-centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858. The celebration at Ottawa was the first and took place on Friday, August 21st.

The Freeport celebration occurred on Thursday, August 27th. These two celebrations were successful in every detail and the citizens of these towns and the chairmen of the committees having the celebrations in charge are to be congratulated. Accounts of the celebrations will be found in this number of the *Journal*.

Attention is called to the other debate celebrations and the members of the society are urged to attend as many of them as is convenient. It is hoped that each member of the society will have the privilege of attending at least one of them, as they are truly historic events, long to be remembered, and the speakers are men of distinction who will deliver addresses which will be most instructive.

Dr. Snyder's description of the Brown county ossuary in this number of the *Journal* (that properly should have appeared in the Historical Society's *Transactions* of 1907), is one of a series of papers on Pre-historic Illinois which the State Historical Society designs to continue with the view of stimulating public interest in the study of Illinois archæology. The term "prehistoric" as applied to American antiquities is somewhat ambiguous and misleading. As employed in reference to the Indian occupancy of Illinois it really comprehends a department of our State's history, dealing with human events transpiring here in the ages preceding the beginning of its *recorded* history in 1673.

The study of that unwritten part of our history, tinted as it is by the glamor of mystery, if not as materially important as the written part, is certainly equally fascinating. To recover, interpret, and record the life story of the primitive peoples that first came here, and for a vast period of time occupied this region, is not only an appropriate work for the Illinois State Historical Society, but an imperative duty. The remains of aboriginal tribes that for many successive generations held sway over our prairies, hills, and streams, and of their arts, habits and manner of living, are rapidly disappearing, and no concerted effort has yet been made by our State, or any of our educational institutions, for their preservation. The historical societies of New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Missouri, and several other States, recognizing the value of such relics, have for years labored faithfully to rescue them from spoliation by the ignoramus and the mercenary vandal.

Though late to begin it now, the Illinois State Historical Society should engage in this work, and prosecute it systematically and vigorously. We wish to call the earnest attention of the public, and more especially of the members of the State Historical Society, to the papers we publish relating to this department of State history, and will be grateful for such suggestions, opinions, or contributions as they may offer.

ALFRED ORENDORFF,  
JESSIE PALMER WEBER,  
ANDREW RUSSEL,  
J. H. BURNHAM,

*Special Committee on the Publication of a Periodical.*